A-7 SEP 1948
G.R. 37

1942

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ST.AUSTELL

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the
St.Austell Rural District Council.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure, when compiling this Annual Report for presentation to you in the fourth year of war, to be able to congratulate you on the generally satisfactory condition of Health in the Rural District.

situation in certain areas is becoming still
t any comprehensive solution must await post-war

I am,
Your obedient servant,

E.G.ANDREW.

Annual Report of M.O.H.

Please circulate as quickly as possible

(1) Miss Newham (for Dr. Hutchinson)

(2) Dr. Norman-Smith

(3) Dr. Lethem

(4) Library-To retain

Form 26 C/Reg.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres) 82,389.
Population (Census 1931) 20,464.
Population (estimated mid-1942) 19,960.
Number of inhabited houses 1942 5,920.
Rateable value £69,742.
Sum represented by a penny rate £284 - 14 - 6d.

The principal industries are clay-mining and agriculture. There has been a decline in the population of nearly 3,000, owing largely to the call-up for the various services and the return to their homes of many evacuees.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total	Birth rate per thousand of the population	
Legitimate	157.	114.	271		
Illegitimate	5.	11.	16	England & Wales	15.8
	162	125	287	London	17.3
					14.3

Still Births

	M.	F.	Total		
Legitimate	9.	9.	18.	Rate per 1000 of total births (live and still)	62.0
Illegitimate	1.	0.	1.	Rate per 1000 of population	.95
	10.	9.	19.	England & Wales	.54
				London	.66

Deaths

M.	F.	Total		
126.	135.	261.	Crude Death rate per 1000 of population	13.0
			England & Wales	11.6
			London	13.3.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis Nil.
Deaths from Puerperal Causes Nil.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (under one year)

	M.	F.	Total		
Legitimate	8.	7.	15.	Rate per 1000 Live Births	59.2
Illegitimate	0.	2.	2.	Rate for England & Wales	49.0
			17.	Rate for London	59.0

Deaths from Measles. Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough 3.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2) 1.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

I regret that the year is marked by a rise in the Infantile Mortality Rate. Nearly half the deaths were due to Premature Birth and Congenital Causes, and five ensued from Bronchial Pneumonia and Bronchitis. It compares unfavourably with that for England & Wales (49.0) and is similar to that of London.

THE CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease	75
Cancer	40
Cerebral Causes	30
Bronchitis	13
Tuberculosis (all forms)	9
Nephritis	8
Pneumonia	8
Diabetes	5
Suicide	2
Road - Traffic	2
Other Deaths from Accident	5

Cancer takes the second place in the list of the Causes of Death, being responsible for 15.3% of the total. Once more, I should like to emphasize how essential early treatment is, with regard to this disease.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS

Scarlet Fever & Measles.

I am able to report again a marked decrease in the number of notifications for Scarlet Fever and Measles. These epedemic diseases generally show a swing of the pendelum and for a few years after a heavy attack, the number of cases is usually light. This year only 4 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, in contrast to 13 in 1941, and 54 in 1940. This swing is illustrated again by the extraordinary drop from 52 cases of Measles last year to only 2 cases this year.

Whooping Cough.

This has been fairly prevalent in the district, 50 cases being notified as against 87 last year. Most of these cases, 30 in all, occurred in Gorran and Gorran Haven and about 13 in the St.Columb area.

Mumps.

There has been considerable absence from school among children owing to the incidence of Mumps, especially at Nanpean, St.Mewan and St.Dennis.

Diphtheria.

During the year there has been an increase in the number of cases, 31 being reported as against 23 last year, no deaths occurred. 18 of these occurred in the St.Stephens area and 11 in the St.Columb. On the whole, the practice of inoculation for this disease is increasing in the district and during the year about one thousand children up to fifteen years of age - the most susceptible period of life - were inoculated. Unfortunately some parents are very reluctant to have their children safe-guarded in this way and it is difficult to impress on them its importance. Scarcely 21% of the children under 15 years of age in the district have been immunized. About 18 of the cases notified were treated at the Isolation Hospital, St.Austell and 9 at the Isolation Hospital, Truro, the remainder being cared for at home.

Pneumonia.

Fifteen cases were notified, and there were eight deaths.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Three notifications were received, no deaths occurred from this or any other maternal causes, a satisfactory report.

Erysipelas.

Two cases were notified, no death occurred.

Opthalmia Neonatorum.

One case with good results was notified.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

Only one case was reported in which the patient recovered.

Enteric

Two cases occurred, one typhoid and one paratyphoid, the latter at Mawgan Porth and the other at Lanlivery. In both cases the patients recovered.

Tuberculosis

During 1942, 12 cases were reported, 7 Pulmonary (male), 3 Pulmonary (female), 2 Non-Pulmonary (1 male and 1 female). This shows a slight increase, but fewer deaths are recorded, nine as against fourteen ; six Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary. About 3.4% of the total deaths in the district are due to this disease, about 80% of these were notified.

Scabies.

There is still a considerable amount of Scabies in the area, the incidence is widespread and the hostel at Castle-an-Dinas has still been used for dealing with the patients. 128 children were treated there for Scabies and Impetigo, of these 95 came from the St.Austell Rural District and 29 from the St.Austell Urban; 4 cases came from Camelford.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

Owing to the comparative freedom from serious air-raids, the number of evacuated persons billeted in this district has dropped from a total at the beginning of 1942 of 1910 (women and children) to 894 in December of the same year. During the year the Hostel at the Old Rectory, St.Columb was found unnecessary and closed. The remaining hostels at Trewoon and St.Dennis together with the one at Castle-an-Dinas are inspected by a Committee each month and are, in general, well conducted.

MEAT INSPECTION

Now slaughtering has been centralized it is possible to inspect carcases when slaughtered. During the year the number of carcases condemned was 18 while the number of parts of carcases condemned totalled 47.

Tin Food.

A considerable amount of Tin Goods have been condemned, 228 tins in all.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Numerous visits were made to Cowsheds throughout the district for re-registration and in all cases the places were well kept.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There are several encampments of Tent and Van dwellers in the area and visits were made in the Luxulyan, Roche and St.Enoder areas.

Sanitary work.

Sewers cleared	6
Dirty houses cleansed	4
Slaughterhouse visits	256
Tents and Vans	10
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	35
New drains laid	14
Closets repaired etc.	12
Cesspools cleansed	8
Samples of Water (all satisfactory)	5
(St.Mawgan 3. St.Stephens 1. Roche 1.)	

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The St.Austell Ambulance, which is staffed by voluntary workers under the British Red Cross, St.Austell /9 Detachment, has again done excellent service, and the district owes a great debt of gratitude for the willing and efficient help rendered by the members on all occasions. The figures below include both Rural and Urban patients.

Patients carried		Total mileage
Infectious	105	8426 miles.
Road Accidents	20	
Hospital and Sickness	280	
	405	

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

The Infant Welfare Centre and Orthopaedic Clinic, which serve equally the Urban and Rural Districts of St.Austell are still functioning satisfactorily. In addition there are Eye, Throat and Ear Clinics in the town and Dental ones in connection with the various schools.